July 24, 2012
FI$Cal Forum Q & A

Q. – How will PeopleSoft integrate with different platforms, such as MyCalPays?

A. – FI$Cal will be able to integrate with many different applications and technologies. PeopleSoft is an ERP platform that has built-in connectors and adapters to several other products that allow connections and bridges to be built. FI$Cal will interface with MyCalPays as well as some legacy systems.

Q. – For agencies that submitted their statutes, policies and procedures, when will these agencies be given an answer whether these will be incorporated into the system?

A. – FI$Cal will use that information now, during the Business Process Reengineering (BPR) and Conference Room Pilot (CRP) sessions and during the design phase. Prior to each wave, we will be talking to participating departments about statutes, retention, etc. FI$Cal asked for the information early so that the information could be captured and discussed during the BPR sessions.

Q. – Is there more time and resources scheduled for departments that are not on CalStars or PeopleSoft?

A. – No. FI$Cal decided not to have departments provide permanent staff because the departments would have back-filled behind the positions by the end of the project. Also, FI$Cal was unable to equitably fund positions in departments. There are no additional resources proposed for departments. We understand this is extra workload for you, but the payoff will be worth the effort.

Q. – Have you budgeted extra time for non-CalStars Departments?

A. – We believe FI$Cal has budgeted enough time and support to ensure non-CalStars departments are sufficiently prepared for go live.

Q. – Will FI$Cal be user friendly?

A. – Yes, but it will be different. While there is intuitiveness to a browser-based application, training will still be required to teach people how to use the software and processes. FI$Cal will provide training, job aids, and reference materials to equip users on how to use the new system.

Q. – Will FI$Cal's accounting system be on a cash basis or an accrual basis or will it vary among the departments?

A. – We recognize the system must be able to accommodate the various ways the state does business. We have committed to adopting an inherent best practice ERP. The ERP is very mature and recognizes different methods of accounting; we believe we have selected a product that will meet all of our needs.

Q. – When will we know which internal systems will be absorbed and which will be interfaced? If we would like to start planning, is there a contact?

A. –The Legacy System Data Analysis (LSDA) sub-project, is performing assessments of the legacy systems. The LSDA Team will be reaching out to the departments well in advance of each wave to gain a thorough understanding of the existing functionality, interfaces, and data of your legacy systems. We will collaboratively determine whether it is best to retire, replace, or interface your system. It is premature to determine which systems will go away and which will stay. All inquiries can be sent to the Change Management Office at fiscal.cmo@fiscal.ca.gov.

Q. – MyCalPays has completely changed the terminology for payroll processes. Will FI$Cal also change all terminology with regard to normal state accounting, budgeting, and procurement processes?

A. – FI$Cal will not change all terminology, but some will change. A lot of the terminology is not application specific, it is industry terminology and that language should carry forward. The FI$Cal system will produce some new terminology, but we expect to come up with a smart blending so that it will make sense to your departmental end users without re-writing the software to accommodate the terminology. We will spend time ahead of the roll out introducing, defining, and putting those new terms in context so the users will know what each term means.

Q. -Can we find Forum presentations on the FI$Cal website?

A. - Yes. All Forum presentations are available on FI$Cal's web site. Past Forum presentations can be found on the Project Archive page. http://fiscal.ca.gov

Q. - What is UCM?

A. - UCM = Uniform Code Manual

Q. - How do I contact the Customer Impact Committee (CIC) to ensure my department's interests are heard? Will my Department Liaison be in touch with the CIC regarding department representatives?

Answer: You may reach out to the CIC to discuss your department's interests by sending an email to the FI$Cal CMO Mailbox at fi$cal.cmo@fiscal.ca.gov with the Subject line "Inquiry for Customer Impact Committee". The CMO will forward your email to the CIC Chair. It would be most appropriate for for your Department Director to contact the CIC Chair.

Q. - Who is my Department Liaison?

A. - Department Liaison information is posted on the "DLN Corner" on the FI$Cal Website located at www.fiscal.ca.gov .

Q. - What does my department need to do to prepare for FI$Cal?

A. - There are many things a department can do to prepare for FI$Cal: visit the FI$Cal Website at www.fiscal.ca.gov to learn about the project itself; read the monthly FI$Cal Focus Newsletters and attend the quarterly FI$Cal Forums to stay abreast of upcoming activities and increase awareness of the impact of upcoming activities on various waves; participate in Business Process Reengineering (BPR) and Conference Room Pilot (CRP) sessions when invited; participate in "readiness" activities (departments will be notified of these activities well in advance of their rollout); share information with others within the department (this will usually happen through the Department Liaison with the support of the Department Sponsor); and, for specific questions related to your department or wave, contact the Change Management Office at fiscal.cmo@fiscal.ca.gov .